

INCOMING TELEGRAM*Department of State*CONFIDENTIAL56
Action
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RMRFROM: MOSCOW
TO: Secretary of StateSS
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UP CORRESPONDENT GAVE EMBASSY FOLLOWING FILL-IN ON QUESTIONS ASKED BY WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS OF MARSHAL RUDENKO AT EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES RECEPTION LAST NIGHT. ALTHOUGH CORRESPONDENTS HAVE FILED STORY THEY SAY THEY LEFT OUT CERTAIN DETAILS DUE TO UNCERTAINTY THESE DETAILS WOULD PASS CENSOR.

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CORRESPONDENTS QUERIED RUDENKO RE SOVIET CHARGES-US PLANES VIOLATED SOVIET AIR FRONTIERS ASKING HOW SOVIETS KNEW THESE PLANES WERE AMERICAN. RUDENKO ADMITTED NO MARKINGS HAD BEEN SEEN CLAIMING PLANES HAD FLOWN AT ALTITUDE 20,000 METERS HOWEVER PILOTS OF SOVIET PLANES CLAIMED THEY COULD IDENTIFY FOREIGN PLANES AS AMERICAN FROM SILHOUETTE. TO CORRESPONDENTS SUGGESTION THAT WHILE PLANES MAY HAVE BEEN AMERICAN MANUFACTURE THEY COULD HAVE BELONGED TO ANY NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, RUDENKO REPLIED THAT SINCE PLANES OF AMERICAN ORIGIN US ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES. (HERE CORRESPONDENTS MISSED GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION RUDENKO RE SOVIET RESPONSIBILITY FOR MIGS IN KOREA AND THOSE RECENTLY SOLD TO EGYPT). RUDENKO WAS THEN ASKED RE SOVIET PRACTICE SHOOTING DOWN PLANES OVER-FLYING SOVIET TERRITORY AND REPLIED SOVIET POLICY ONE OF PEACE AND SOVIETS DO NOT WISH HEIGHTEN INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS. HE CLAIMED SOVIET PILOTS HAVE ORDERS NOT TO SHOOT AT PLANES WHICH HAVE OBVIOUSLY STRAYED ACROSS BORDER ACCIDENTALLY AND THAT PILOTS MUST RECEIVE SPECIFIC GROUND INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FIRING AT ANY AIRCRAFT. RUDENKO ASSERTED HOWEVER THAT IF OVER-FLIGHTS CONTINUE SOVIETS WOULD TAKE "NECESSARY MEASURES." HE ALSO CLAIMED SOVIETS HAVE PICTURES OF PLANES WHICH HE SAID WOULD BE PRODUCED IF NECESSARY.

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